NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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MONTHLY MEMO to: Local Presidents

A Time for Greatness—In November I told you we had the most important job of our lives to do within a few months' time, and present events are emphasizing the truth of that statement. After milleniums of warfare there seems now to be some hope that a world organization for peace may come into being. It will not be perfect at first; it will have to face many practical problems. There will be conflicting interests, and national hatreds and jealousies of long standing will cause difficulties at times. No nation can have all it would like to have in the final agreements. New modes of thought will have to be created here in America as well as in other nations. We shall all have to be patient and understand the great stake for which we work.

A book by Herbert Agar, written at about the time of the outbreak of the war, was called *A Time for Greatness.* This is that time; never was there such need for us all to be great in our attitudes and in our understanding, for the future of the whole world is at stake.

Bretton Woods Proposals—A plan for peace has many aspects. Political agreements alone cannot meet the fundamental needs of human beings, and unless these needs are met, wars will continue, one after the other, as they have in the past. The greatest need of all people is for sufficient food, shelter, and clothing for themselves and their children. The possibility of fulfilling this basic requirement depends on whether or not people can work to produce foods and goods and whether or not there will be markets for what is produced. Political agreements must therefore be supported by economic agreements, and for this reason we are taking much space this month to explain to you the Bretton Woods Proposals that are concerned with these economic matters.

"I was . . . naked and ye clothed me"—The millions of people in war-devastated areas are in urgent need not only of food but of clothing. Thousands are practically naked and it is impossible to manufacture enough goods and clothing to cover them. Until factories can be set up in these nations we, in this one country that has not suffered devastation, must give of our surplus. I know what you would all do if a family in the next block had been burned out and lost all its possessions. We must do this same thing on a world-wide scale. "What can *you* spare that *they* can wear?" is our slogan.

Won't you take special care in cleaning out your attics, clothes closets, and dresser drawers to set aside anything worth wearing but for which you no longer have need? If no group in your community has started organizing for the United National Clothing Collection, please do so. I have promised that we will all do our part. This, too, is an aspect of our international planning, as it is being carried on through the UNRRA, which is an international mechanism.

Other things about which I intended to write this month must give way to these more crucial matters. May I say in closing that it is a joy to know how you have responded, all across this country, in helping to create a public understanding of current events. Wherever I go I am told of the fine response from parent-teacher groups.

Jennette A. Hastings

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

NATIONAL OFFICERS NOMINATED

The nominating committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has made public the following slate of nominees to be presented for election in May 1945:

- ***Second Vice-President, Mr. Charles W. Phillips, Greensboro, N. C.***
- ***Vice-President, Region I, Mrs. Newton P. Leonard, Providence, R. I.***
- ***Vice-President, Region II, Mrs. Albert L. Gardner, Perth Amboy, N. J.***
- ***Vice-President, Region IV, Mrs. James C. Parker, Grand Rapids, Mich.***
- ***Vice-President, Region VI, Mrs. Jack M. Little, Dallas, Texas***

In view of the cancellation of the National Convention, which was to have been held in Denver, Colorado, balloting will be conducted by mail. Additional information will be sent to you soon. The members of the nominating committee are: Mr. J. W. Faust, chairman, New Jersey; Mrs. Jesse L. Mariner, Connecticut; Mrs. James C. Parker, Michigan; Dr. Alice Sowers, Oklahoma; and Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher, Ohio.

Nation-Wide Brake Emphasis Program

"You're Only a Foot from Trouble" is the slogan to be used by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for their traffic law enforcement program that will open on April 15. Continuing until June 1, the campaign will stress better care of our worn and aging cars in order that this spring of 1945 may not bring its usual seasonal increase of accidents. During the six-week period, state and local police will be particularly active in administering a new brake-check system.

Many national organizations plan to support the drive with extensive publicity, and P.T.A. safety chairmen can do their share toward calling motorists' attention to this worthy conservation effort. If you wish to obtain posters, leaflets, and booklets explaining the program, send your requests to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Headquarters Office, 918 F Street N.W., Washington 4, D. C.

WE NEED TOOLS AND AIDS TO ATTAIN OUR OBJECTIVES

• DIGEST OF A SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPATED IN BY NATIONAL CHAIRMEN DURING THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Presiding: Mrs. William A. Hastings, President

THE success of the Congress program depends, in the last analysis, on the effective use of every available source of information, every implement of communication, members of this symposium agreed. Fortunately the Congress can provide its members with a variety of excellent and up-to-date tools that are constantly being reexamined and refined.

Dr. Edgar Dale, chairman of Visual Education, reminded the group that these tools must be used to reach *all* parents of *all* children, not merely the highly educated minority. Visual aids are particularly well adapted to enlighten people whose vocabularies are more limited than we realize. He suggested that the Congress consider cooperating with other national organizations or agencies in the preparation of program packets on special subjects. A typical packet might consist of a film, a radio recording, and an informational pamphlet—on the subject of safety, for example.

Discussion following Dr. Dale's talk brought out the fact that several national groups are now working for the free distribution of army and navy visual education equipment to the schools after the war. In addition, many instructional film strips are now available to local P.T.A.'s through the OCD, the Automotive Safety Foundation, state medical associations, state departments of health, and other agencies.

Mrs. Albert L. Gardner, chairman of Congress Publications, asked the group to think of our publications as cherished tools, as indispensable in Congress work as a housewife's favorite mixing spoon, her recipe file, her vacuum cleaner without which she could not run her home efficiently.

Mrs. Gardner briefly outlined the publications program for the year 1945—revision of the *Parent-Teacher Manual* to make it a more useful tool; new pamphlets on juvenile guidance, the rural P.T.A., and preschool service; a reprint of articles on the exceptional child from the *National Parent-Teacher;* a digest of *The Parent-Teacher Organization* for study groups; and a syllabus based on the same book for use in teacher training classes. The committee also plans to publish some parent-teacher material in Spanish for the benefit of states with a large Spanish-speaking population.

Mrs. Gardner welcomed the Board's emphasis on the importance of keeping in touch with the local associations, whose work is the root and stock of all parent-teacher achievement. She urged state presidents to maintain a constant flow of publications to the local units so that there might never be a lack of fresh, clean, up-to-date tools and aids.

Mr. H. B. McCarty, Radio chairman, challenged Board members with the statement that people in America today spend more time listening to the radio than in doing anything else, aside from working and sleeping. Why, then, neglect such a vastly important educational tool? He suggested the following activities for local associations:

- *Make fuller use of public-service time available on many local stations. The Radio Script Service provides excellent scripts for this purpose.*
- *Take part in organizing a state-wide better-listening movement, such as that now under way in Wisconsin.*
- *Encourage the use of radio as an educational aid in classrooms.*
- *Join state educational leaders in the frequency-modulation movement, which bears promise of greatly expanded radio broadcasting facilities.*
- *Watch developments in short-wave and transoceanic broadcasting. Radio can be one of our most useful tools for promoting international understanding and brotherhood among men.*

Mrs. James Fitts Hill, president of the National Parent-Teacher, Inc., enumerated the manifold ways in which the official Magazine of the Congress fulfills the Objects of the organization. "The *National Parent-Teacher* is a two-edged tool. On the one hand it educates the individual so that he may become a more adequate parent and person. On the other, it educates the parent-teacher member in the specific content and techniques that must be mastered before he can carry out his work effectively. It fills our need for more information, more and better reading material on all vital issues that demand concentrated and concerted action, such as the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals.

"In short, we have at hand an instrument that can help us to play our role in the mighty drama of tomorrow. And our fine and flexible tool acquires still another function, that of closing the gap between what we decide that the organization should do and what actually gets done in all our thousands of local associations."

Mrs. Hill concluded with an appeal to all members to see that every P.T.A. has access to this essential, all-important aid to parent-teacher work.

Mrs. Charles D. Center, Programs chairman, stressed the double necessity of planning local programs well in advance but of making these plans flexible enough to allow for last-minute changes. A case in point is the current need to present and discuss the facts about Dumbarton Oaks. She repeated what several chairmen had already stressed emphatically—that what is *planned* by any committee on the National level is of little value unless something is *done* about it on the local level.

Mrs. Malcolm McClellan, chairman of Legislation, echoed this same theme. The realization of our Object—"to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth"—requires active work in the field of legislation at all levels. Enough money should be budgeted to enable the legislation chairman to carry on the work.

State chairmen should make a survey of state needs, especially in regard to:

- *Adequate appropriations for all child welfare services, including provisions for the physically and mentally handicapped.*
- *Revision of state child labor laws as recommended by the Children's Bureau.*
- *State funds to match government appropriations for the Emergency Maternity and Infant Care program and similar Federal programs.*
- *Elimination of court action in services to crippled children.*
- *Proper protective legislation for children with legally appointed guardians.*
- *Adequate adoption and placement laws.*

Save Tin, Paper, and Fats!

CONGRESS CONTACTS

Cooperation with national organizations whose programs are similar to those of the National Congress constantly increases the strength of the Congress and extends its fields of influence. Since February National officers and chairmen have represented the Congress at these important meetings:

- American Public Health Association, annual meeting. Martha L. Clifford, M.D., National chairman, committee on Health and Summer Round-Up of the Children.
- Commission To Study the Organization of Peace, meeting called regarding the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals. Mrs. William A. Hastings, National president.
- Educational Policies Commission, regional meetings. Dr. I. D. Weeks, National chairman, committee on Rural Service and Dr. Alice Sowers, regional vice-president.
- Federal Communications Commission, hearing on FM educational radio frequency allocations. H. B. McCarty, National chairman, committee on Radio.
- National Conference of Christians and Jews, institute on intercultural education. Mrs. Nathaniel E. White, National chairman, committee on Character and Spiritual Education.
- American Legion Auxiliary, postwar committee conference of national women's organizations. Mrs. Clifford F. Thompson, regional vice-president.
- U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, meeting of the National Committee on Recruitment of Student Nurses. Mrs. Clifford F. Thompson, regional vice-president.
- National Safety Council, Thirty-third National Safety Congress. Mrs. L. K. Nicholson, National chairman, committee on Safety.
- Physicians' Forum for the Study of Medical Care. Martha L. Clifford, M.D., National chairman, committee on Health and Summer Round-Up of the Children.
- White House Conference on Rural Education. Mrs. Clifford F. Thompson, regional vice-president.
- Children's Book Week, luncheon meeting of the sponsoring committee. Mrs. Albert L. Gardner, National chairman, committee on Congress Publications.
- National Society for Crippled Children of the United States of America, Twenty-second Annual Meeting. Dr. Elise H. Martens, National chairman, committee on the Exceptional Child.
- United Council of Church Women, meeting. Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher, regional vice-president.
- Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, meeting. Dr. Edgar Dale, National chairman, committee on Visual Education.
- Cooperating Committee on School Lunches, meeting. Mrs. Paul H. Leonard, National chairman, committee on School Lunch.
- American Society for the Hard of Hearing, meeting. Dr. Elise H. Martens, National chairman, committee on the Exceptional Child.
- National Organization for Public Health Nursing, meeting of Joint Committee on Lay Participation in School Nursing. Martha L. Clifford, M.D., National chairman, committee on Health and Summer Round-Up of the Children.
- American Social Hygiene Association, Thirty-second Annual Meeting. Mrs. William A. Hastings, National president.
- Luncheon symposium on "The Future of the American Family," sponsored by outstanding organizations interested in parent education and child welfare. Mrs. Clifford F. Thompson, regional vice-president.
- Home Safety Division of the National Safety Council, meeting of the Educational Program Committee. Mrs. William A. Hastings, National president.
- Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the League of Nations. Howard V. Funk, second vice-president.
- General Federation of Women's Clubs, conference on youth conservation. Mrs. William A. Hastings, National president.
- Camp Fire Girls, professional conference. Mrs. William A. Hastings, National president.

"HOME IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT"

A HANDBOOK designed to supplement the broadcast series of the NBC University of the Air, *Home Is What You Make It* (NBC Network, Saturdays, 9:00 a.m., EWT) is now available. It includes discussions of all the subjects covered in the broadcasts: family relationships, children, housing, food and nutrition, clothing, family health, cultural influences in the home, civic interests, and household equipment.

Contributors to the handbook are: Dora S. Lewis, president of the American Home Economics Association; Grace McLeod of Columbia University's Teachers College; Mary Brooks Picken, noted fashion designer and president of the Mary Brooks Picken Institute; Dr. Ernest Stebbins, Commissioner of Health for New York City; Mrs. William A. Hastings, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers; Dr. Muriel W. Brown, U.S. Office of Education; Mrs. LaFell Dickinson, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; and Eloise Davison, director of the New York Herald Tribune Home Institute.

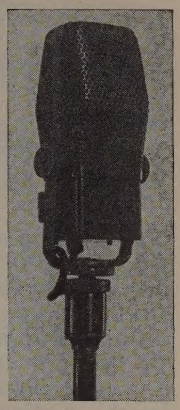
The book may be obtained from the International Press, 121 Varick Street, New York 13, New York. The price is twenty-five cents.

More than 900,000 men are members of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

ARBOR DAY—APRIL 22

The National Council of State Garden Clubs reminds all P.T.A. presidents of two important dates to be celebrated in April—Arbor Day, which falls on any day up to April 22 that is suitable for planting trees in your region, and National Garden Week, the third week in April.

The Baxters



THE two-year-old son of one of our most faithful Baxter fans has his own way of expressing enthusiasm. "More *'gain,* Mommy!" he will say. "More a-*gain!*" So many hundreds of listeners have been saying "More a-*gain!*" to NBC all this fall and winter that it has been decided to extend our P.T.A. weekly program for another thirteen weeks after March 31—a nonstop marathon from September 30, 1944 to June 30, 1945.

Spread the good news to your listening groups, and keep on saving those fifteen minutes every Saturday from 1:30 to 1:45, E.W.T. The Baxters will be there waiting for you—merry, tender Marge; stout-hearted Bill; those two unpredictable young 'uns, Bud and Janey; and Baby Sandy, who, by the way, is growing up fast—as babies are wont to do. In fact, these children are all developing their unique personalities at such a great rate that Marge and Bill are sometimes hard put to figure out just how best to handle them. Life isn't all smooth sailing for the Baxters—not for more than five minutes at a time. But like the rest of us, they put their wits and their love and their understanding to work, with happy results that Mrs. Grant, editor of the *National Parent-Teacher* and our "Voice of the P.T.A.," summarizes for us at the end of each broadcast.

So Baxter fans, rejoice. And how about making sure that your neighbors are listening to the program too?

How many other officers and chairmen see your copy of the *National Congress Bulletin?* Don't pigeonhole it! Pass it along! An informed membership is an effective membership.

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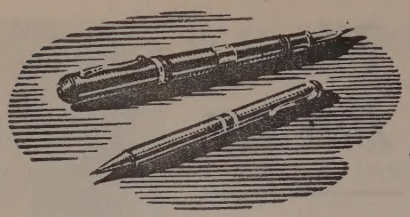


A REPORT ON THE BRETTON WOODS PROPOSALS

BY NOW we are all becoming familiar with what is meant by the *Dumbarton Oaks* Proposals. We know that at Dumbarton Oaks certain proposals were drawn up by representatives of the four great powers—Great Britain, the United States, Russia, and China—for the creation of a *United Nations organization to keep peace in the world after this war is over.* They are proposals for a *political* organization that will have *military* power to use against aggressors in case all peaceful means fail.

It is to discuss these proposals that the forty-four United Nations are meeting in San Francisco on April 25.

- *Many important subjects are not covered by the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, but opportunity is provided for the decisions arrived at in other conferences, held to discuss specific subjects, to become a part of the structure of the proposed international organization.*

We all know that there cannot be peace in the world unless the causes of war are removed. One of the chief causes of war has been the economic difficulties of the various nations. No peace is possible without economic stability in the world. We know that such stability is lacking at present and that serious problems must be solved before it can be created.

Problems of Postwar Economy

1. In many countries, for example, there has been great and terrible devastation. Factories, homes, everything that makes for decent living and provides jobs for workers have been destroyed. The needs of the people are limitless.
2. In the United States there has been no destruction. We have the greatest productive mechanism ever known to man. Our problem is how to use this mechanism to provide employment on a large scale, to keep factories going, and to secure a market for the surplus products that cannot be consumed at home. There are vast potential markets for these goods if the means of doing business with other nations are made available.
3. The monetary systems of the world have been tampered with repeatedly, and in some nations special monetary devices have been used to prepare for war. Old systems have disappeared, and the monies of the world are in the greatest confusion. This situation must be remedied if there is to be trade among the nations. It has been growing worse ever since World War I and was, in fact, one of the chief causes of the great depressions of the past decade.

Steps Toward Stabilization

Work on these very intricate problems began in the United States about three years ago. Hundreds of specialists in the monetary field worked on them for a long time; then they took up their proposals with foreign governments. Finally a conference was held at Atlantic City, where technical experts from fifteen nations worked together for three weeks.

The next step was a conference of representatives of the forty-four United Nations held at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, last July and from which came the specific proposals now under discussion in Congress. These proposals —or agreements as they are sometimes called—form a unique document in the field of international affairs. There are no hazy generalities but some very specific mechanisms governed by definite policies.

These instrumentalities have been proposed, says Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, so that "men and women everywhere can exchange on a fair and stable basis the goods they produce through their labor. And we have taken the initial step through which the nations of the world will be able to help one another in economic development to their mutual advantage and for the enrichment of all."

Two Instruments

The two pieces of machinery proposed at Bretton Woods are:

- An International Monetary Fund
- An International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The two go hand in hand and "in the opinion of the originators of the proposals one institution can hardly flourish without the other," says the Secretary.

The subject is a very complicated one, and the details must be left to experts. We can, however, understand the main outlines of the proposals and the purposes they are to achieve.

President Roosevelt, in his budget message of January 9, called attention to the need for immediate action on the Bretton Woods Proposals, since each nation involved must accept or reject them. Amendments may be suggested by some nations, and there will have to be discussions in order to reach international agreements. Then on February 12 the President sent a special message to Congress. This deserves careful reading, for it explains in simple terms the purposes of the proposals.

The President Explains

- Regarding the monetary fund, the President said: "The conference submitted a plan to create an international monetary fund which will put an end to monetary chaos. The fund is a financial institution to preserve stability and order in the exchange rates between different monies. . . . In a nutshell the fund agreement spells the difference between a world caught again in the maelstrom of panic and economic warfare

Step by Step Toward a Better World

The response to recent *Bulletin* articles on the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, especially Mrs. Hastings' plea to discuss them in P.T.A. groups all over the country, has been remarkable. In this and following issues the essence of other vitally important international agreements will be brought to our readers—this month the Bretton Woods Proposals for international economic stabilization, next month the proposed Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and so on. Because all these specific programs fit into the Dumbarton Oaks plan, public understanding of them is essential.

culminating in war—as in the 1930's—and a world in which members strive for a better life through mutual trust, cooperation, and assistance. The choice is ours."

● Regarding the international bank the President said: "The United States should act promptly upon the plan for the international bank, which will make or guarantee sound loans for the foreign currency requirements of important reconstruction and development projects in member countries. One of its most important functions will be to facilitate and make secure wide private participation in such loans. . . . I recommend to the Congress that we accept the plan, subscribe the capital allotted to us, and participate wholeheartedly in the bank's work."

The total resources of the bank are to be $9,100,000,000, of which the United States would subscribe $3,175,000,000. The balance would be subscribed by other nations in proportion to their resources. Only 20 per cent of this capital would comprise its loan fund, making our initial contribution $635,000,000.

The monetary fund is to have a pool of $8,800,000,000, of which the United States would contribute $2,750,000,000.

An Investment in Peace

When we remember that it is costing us at least $300,000,000,000 for this war, with probably 1,500,000 casualties, the use of a few billion to help put the world back on its feet, to make peace a possibility, and to save the lives of our boys of tomorrow would seem to be a wise and sound investment.

Both the Treasury Department and the State Department are trying to help the public realize the importance of this matter and its relation to the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals. Your president was one of a group of about one hundred representatives of national organizations who attended a conference sponsored by both departments at Washington on February 28. This is a report to you, in simple language, of the main facts about these proposals. If you wish to know more, the following material will be helpful and is authoritative:

1. Booklets issued by Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.: *The President's Message to Congress on Bretton Woods* and *The Bretton Woods Proposals*

2. *Federal Reserve Bulletin*, September 1944: "Bretton Woods Agreements"

3. *Foreign Policy Reports*, September 1, 1944: "Bretton Woods Monetary Conference—Plans and Achievements" (Foreign Policy Association, Inc., 22 East Thirty-Eighth Street, New York 16, New York. 25 cents.)

The House Committee on Banking and Currency has begun hearings on these proposals. Follow the reports of these hearings as they are printed in the daily papers. If you are especially interested, write your opinions to the Committee. Under-Secretary of State Archibald MacLeish told us that public opinion about these proposals is as important as it is in regard to any other matters relating to the establishment of peace, as they are all part of the same big plan.

Mrs. William A. Hastings, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

AHEAD IN MEMBERSHIP

The Congress membership year ends on April 15, 1945. Already twelve states have sent in more memberships than they forwarded during the entire 1943–44 fiscal year. The states and their enrollments as of February 15, 1945, are:

Alabama	79,755	Missouri	85,653
Arkansas	50,935	Ohio	226,487
California	409,889	Oklahoma	55,656
Colorado	55,014	Tennessee	92,160
Florida	77,806	Texas	185,976
Louisiana	25,529	Washington	60,054

Proud To Announce It!

The Brackett School P.T.A. of Arlington, Massachusetts, has one hundred and four subscribers to the *National Parent-Teacher* Magazine. All were sent in at once by their Magazine chairman, Mrs. Arthur Freeman.

Mrs. Pavlovic, Magazine chairman of the Sawyer Avenue P.T.A. of Chicago, Illinois, is another who reports a successful Magazine year. They now have sixty-seven families taking the Magazine.

Allen Weldy, principal of the Weldon School P.T.A. of Elkhart, Indiana, writes that they have fifty-six subscribers. This association became a Congress unit last spring and by October they had their first club of subscriptions.

Mrs. Berry Willis, state president of the Virginia Congress, has reported that the John Marshall P.T.A. of Norfolk has fifty subscribers to the Magazine.

Mrs. John Needham, council Magazine chairman, reports another association that has more than fifty subscribers—the Roby P.T.A. of Saugus, Massachusetts.

Deadline for Dues

In order to be counted in our fiscal year, the *state treasurers* must send their dues in to the National Office by April 15. This means that each local association must send its dues to the state treasurer well in advance of April 15. May we count on 100 per cent cooperation in meeting the April 15 deadline for dues?

ACTION ON DUMBARTON OAKS PROPOSALS

● George Lee Wood, president of the Iron Center, Missouri, P.T.A., responds to the appeal to local presidents in the November *Bulletin* with the assurance that the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals were discussed at the December meeting of his association.

He is justly proud of the fact that through the efforts of the Iron Center P.T.A. the War Chest quota for that school was exceeded by almost 30 per cent.

● Remember the Sioux Falls P.T.A. Council's handbill reproduced in the February *Bulletin*, advertising a mass meeting to discuss the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals? Mrs. Deane Davis, general chairman of the council, writes that the meeting was highly successful.

An excellent poll of public opinion was obtained through questionnaires distributed to the audience at the beginning of the meeting and collected afterward. Six questions were asked, dealing with the present plan for world organization, the possibility of maintaining world peace, and the problem of peacetime conscription. Each person was asked to signify whether his opinions had been changed or modified by the evening's discussion.

The results, summarized in the *Argus-Leader*, indicated that out of the 256 persons participating in the survey, 248 believed that a world organization is essential to world peace.

● Coordinated effort to promote a study of the current proposals for a United Nations organization is being carried on by the twenty-eight locals of the Richmond, Virginia, Parent-Teacher Council. Copies of the *Writer's Pledge for Peace* were widely distributed, and each local president urged members to write to their senators in support of the proposed measures for world-wide peace and security. At a recent meeting this plea was reechoed in a talk by Mrs. J. L. Blair, first vice-president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, who stressed the importance of continued study and discussion of peace plans on the part of the American public.

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

What Can You Spare . . . THAT THEY CAN WEAR?

United National Clothing Collection

LOST—Woman's left shoe, size 5½, black oxford; round patch on left side. *Ample reward* for its return to No. 112 Alexander Street, Belgrade.

THIS advertisement appeared recently in *Politika*, leading newspaper of Yugoslavia's capital city. Its lines tell a grim story not only of the Belgrade woman who offers "ample reward" for an old, patched shoe but of millions of other men, women, and children in the war-ravaged nations of the world. To them the loss of a worn shoe, a tattered shirt, or a frayed shawl is a major catastrophe, while in America, countless numbers of usable garments hang, forgotten, in the attics and storerooms of our homes. To us the mode of the moment is a factor of importance, but fashions do not concern those who are in dire need of any kind of covering for their emaciated bodies.

P.T.A.'s Part

Consequently, during the month of April the people of America will be asked to contribute 150,000,000 pounds of good used clothing for distribution to the needy in war-devastated areas. Under the leadership of Henry J. Kaiser, national chairman of the United National Clothing Collection, a nation-wide drive is now being organized in every community. Parent-teacher units will be cooperating with service clubs and other civic groups representing churches, schools, lodges, and industries in this *one* clothing collection for foreign relief.

In many communities local chairmen have already been appointed to organize subcommittees for the April collection. However, parent-teacher groups are urged to take the initiative if no other organization is actively leading this drive upon which the lives of millions literally depend.

Nations in Critical Need

The liberated countries of Europe alone have 125,000,000 people in desperate straits, while sufferers under Japanese aggression are in similar plights. In the last few horror-filled years, the garments of the oppressed have worn thinner, been patched and repatched, turned and turned again, even reinforced with old paper or straw. During the winter months in certain sections, deaths from exposure have equaled and sometimes exceeded those due to starvation and malnutrition.

From Greece, Poland, the Philippines—all the war-torn nations—come tales of incredible need—of a family of seven with only one usable shirt shared in rotation by both sexes and all sizes, of shoes made of a synthetic substance that were sold for $220, of mobs of shivering folk offering money to a bereaved family for the clothing of the deceased.

Plan Now for April

If arrangements for the clothing collection have not yet been made in your community, now is the time to swing into action. Newspapers will be glad to assume responsibility for promoting the drive. Housewives will need little urging to have a "Clean Out Your Clothes Closet Week" once they realize the need for small Johnny's cast-off overalls and Aunt Jane's discarded shoes. Merchants can be encouraged to cooperate in furnishing cartons and boxes for packing contributed garments. Theaters could be persuaded to have a special showing for anyone bringing five pounds of used clothing for the U.N.C.C. bin in the theater lobby. Banks and utility companies may consent to print a clothing slogan on their April bills or statements.

All you need is an enthusiastic and active chairman and a *good* committee. Helpful suggestions and instructions may be obtained from Dan A. West, executive director, National Headquarters of the United National Clothing Collection, 100 Maiden Lane, New York 5, New York.

Baby Clothes and Bedding Head the List

Infants' garments, particularly knit goods, are urgently needed. Blankets and quilts in serviceable condition will serve a vital need. There is almost no article of clothing that will not be acceptable. Usable fabric remnants one yard or more in length are solicited, and it is suggested that pieces of matching cloth and a spool of thread be included with garments whenever possible.

Goal: 5 Pounds from Each Person

Not only the lives and health of these deprived people will be salvaged but adequate clothing will help them regain their self-respect in the mammoth task of rebuilding broken homes and restoring demolished towns and cities. If every man, woman, and child in each community in America contributes only five pounds of clothing, the national goal will be achieved, and we shall be helping millions of stricken people back to their rightful place as partners in establishing and maintaining the future peace of the world.

LOCAL PRESIDENTS . . .

Have You Responded?

Mrs. Hastings, our National president, has asked each local association to be sure to place itself on the *National Parent-Teacher* subscription list by March 31, 1945.

Some very important articles are to be published in coming issues. No P.T.A. can afford to miss them. If your group is not now subscribing to at least one copy, please budget one dollar for a subscription and send the order to the National Office before March 31.

More Used Fats Needed

The War Food Administration has asked us to notify all parent-teacher associations that fat salvage collections have fallen off. Please ask all members to *skim*, *scoop*, and *scrape* every bit of fat and turn it in to their neighborhood butchers. A tablespoon of fat will make enough smallpox vaccine for seventy-eight men.

Fats are also needed in the manufacture of military and civilian soaps, military medicines, sulfa ointments, synthetic rubber, nylon for parachutes, and many other items. For each pound of fat collected, you will receive two red points and four cents, plus the satisfaction that you are doing this small but immensely important bit toward victory.

Start filling up that empty tin can today!

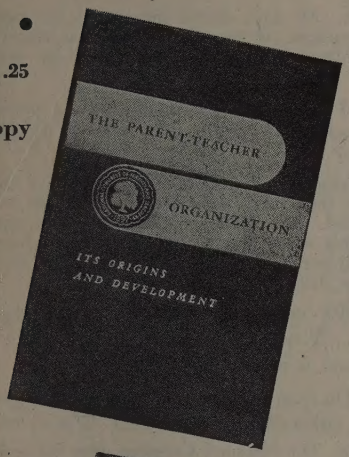
Completely Sold Out

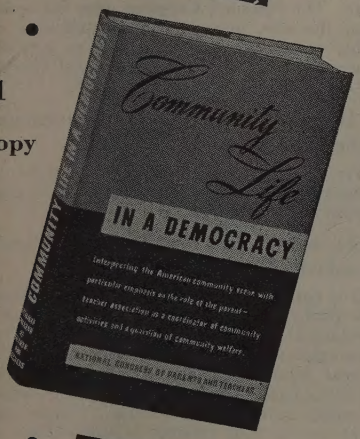
It will not be possible for us to supply any more copies of *Guiding the Young Child*. It is now out of stock and will not be reprinted because the pamphlet *Parents and the Preschool Child* covers practically the same subject matter. The price of *Parents and the Preschool Child* is twenty-five cents.

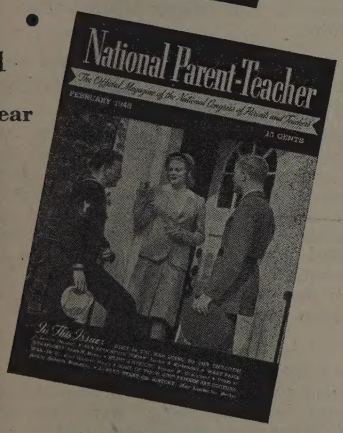
Each issue of the *National Parent-Teacher* also contains several articles of special interest to the parents of preschool children.

DIAL IN ON THE BAXTERS
Saturdays—1:30 p.m., E.W.T.—over NBC Network

Our BIG THREE!







They are invaluable in planning your programs and in carrying on Preschool Section meetings and correspondence courses on parent-teacher work. In setting up your budget for 1945–46, don't fail to allocate $3.25 for these parent-teacher aids—prepared especially for you. Mail check or money order to the National Office.

FROM FAR-OFF HAWAII

Hawaii Congress of Parents and Teachers, Honolulu, T. H.

Dear Mrs. Hastings: February 6, 1945

Your letter of December 14, with its friendly offer of assistance, has been much appreciated. I assure you there are many things the National Congress and the state congresses are doing and can do to help us. For example:

1. Grateful thanks to the states that send us their bulletins. From them we learn what is being done on the mainland and what the trends in modern education may be. All this material makes an excellent supplement to the *National Parent-Teacher*. Our bulletin unhappily was one of the many war casualties.

2. Mail everything early, and send it by air mail. Suggestions often arrive too late for action.

3. Uphold the ideals of racial tolerance so long practiced in Hawaii. There was no race persecution after Pearl Harbor, but the influx of many of the armed forces and many war workers has brought numbers of people with a definite superiority complex toward those of a different racial background. The attitude of these newcomers is a burden to our educational progress. Can you reduce racial intolerance on the mainland?

Hawaii since December 7, 1941, has been sealed off from her former normal contacts with the mainland. What has happened to her school children?

After the blitz there was no school at all for nearly three months. When the all-clear signal came, the loyal group of teachers and principals who had stood by found themselves curtailed as to space and staff. Sometimes an entire school was taken over by the Army or Navy. Always part of the school plant was given over to some military or necessary community project. Many teachers took other jobs.

Another headache soon developed. The pineapple companies and sugar plantations found themselves without enough labor to cultivate and harvest their crops. As a last resort they turned to the school children. In some parts of the Islands the children still give as much as a day a week to field work. Hundreds will never receive as much education as they did in prewar days.

The six-o'clock curfew was one of the many causes of death of local P.T.A.'s. However, now that people may be out as late as ten, there is a definite desire to return to prewar activities and responsibilities, which is helping us in our efforts to rebuild the dormant local P.T.A. groups.

Two main projects are being carried out this year by the Hawaii Congress. One is to provide every P.T.A. and school with a copy of the budget to be presented at the 1945 legislature, to educate as many parents as possible concerning the needs of the schools. The other is to work for a paid public relations director who can continually inform the public about what is going on.

A tremendous challenge lies ahead for Hawaii in the years to come. Can she retain the charm of prewar days, preserve the gaiety and tolerance of the Hawaiian, the sincerity and esteem for learning of the Oriental, and the drive and initiative of the Caucasian? All this is possible, and the parent-teacher association accepts the challenge.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Harold St. John, President,
Hawaii Congress of Parents and Teachers

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers is the *only* organization that gives power, prestige, vitality, and significance to the letters *P.T.A.* Without its organized guidance, its constructive program of work, its supporting national contacts, and its established place in the affairs of the nation, the letters *P.T.A.* would not mean the same to your school or your community.

READING FOR DEMOCRACY

The third booklist published by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, *Reading for Democracy*, contains thirty recent works of fiction, nonfiction, verse, songs, and picture stories. All have been chosen because of their value in stimulating the thoughts and shaping the attitudes of those who would take their part in a free society. This list would be a splendid source of reference material for parent-teacher study groups in postwar planning and the problems of the peace. Send for it from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 203 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago 1, Illinois.

HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER

CHANCE acquaintances and chance conversations often lead into undreamed-of fields. Two people attending the 1944 National Convention happened to have appointments with Howard V. Funk, second vice-president of the National Congress. While they waited for him, it was only natural that they should talk together and that their conversation should take them into the realm of parent-teacher work.

The two persons waiting for Mr. Funk were Mrs. Ralph Hester, state chairman of school education of the Mississippi Congress, and Hugh C. Nourse, past president of the Herbert Symonds Home and School Association, Montreal, Canada. Mrs. Hester told the gentleman from our neighbor nation about P.T.A. home-room meetings. Since returning to Canada, Mr. Nourse has written her asking for a more complete description of this type of meeting. Mrs. Hester gladly sent him a full account of the planning and step-by-step development of the project. She outlined, too, the many opportunities afforded by home-room meetings.

Such meetings enable a parent to get acquainted with his child's teacher, to see the books, materials, and equipment used by the child every day, to know what the child does at school, to find out something about the plan for the year's work, and often to learn from a wise teacher a few practical facts about health, nutrition, school clothing, and so on.

The work of child welfare in which both the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the Canadian Federation of Home and School are engaged knows no boundaries. Our goal is the same—the betterment of living conditions for our own children and for all children everywhere.

P.T.A. chairmen of international relations, program chairmen, and leaders of study and discussion groups now concentrating on plans for world peace will find a mine of valuable material in the publications of the United Nations Information Office, 610 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, New York. This office has published more than fifty books and pamphlets on the United Nations association, the effects of war on these countries and their peoples, and postwar planning. The list includes also a monthly newsletter, a bimonthly periodical, and a film catalogue. Separate publications range in price from ten cents to a dollar, and there is also a kit of selected materials for $3.50. Send for the publications list by writing the United Nations Information Office at the above address.

RELIGIOUS BOOK WEEK ANNOUNCED

Plans for the third annual Religious Book Week, to be observed May 6–13, 1945, have been announced by Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. This particular week was chosen as an especially fitting time to stress spiritual reading because May 10, 1933, was the day on which the Nazis burned the books in Berlin.

Committees are being formed to select lists of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and good-will books in every field that will appeal to the average citizen. All the lists, including a special children's section, are to be published in a pamphlet that will be available soon from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York.

Memorials

NOT MONUMENTS!

At the May 1944 Convention and at the recent meeting of the Board of Managers many Congress leaders suggested that communities honor the sacrifice of their young men and women in this war not by stone monuments but by memorials that symbolize the ideals they fought for. New or better parks, playgrounds, libraries, schools, community buildings, and social services will benefit the living and give them the strength to carry on the peacetime battle for human welfare.

The American Commission for Living War Memorials, 30 East Broad Street, Columbus 15, Ohio, wishes to know how communities all over America are planning to commemorate their war dead. The commission's sixty-page illustrated brochure, *Memorials That Live*, offers a wealth of suggestions.

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Parent-teacher units in war-congested areas will be interested in the new Children's Bureau publication, "Adolescents Away from Home," by Mary Skinner and Alice Scott Nutt, reprinted from *The Annals* of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. This report on a study of young migrant workers during the war period calls attention to the hazards they will face in time of demobilization and the need for them to become acquainted with helpful community services accessible to them. Reprints may be obtained from the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

THE ANSWERS

Q. Should we send our dues to the National Office?

A. No. All dues should be sent to the state treasurer. If you do not have this officer's address, the National Office will be glad to supply it.

Q. We need more membership cards immediately. From whom shall we get them?

A. Write immediately to your state office and let them know how many more cards you need. The National Congress never supplies cards directly to local associations. All cards are sent to state congress offices for distribution.

Q. We collected $14.80 for Founders Day. Where shall we send the money?

A. Send it all to your state treasurer.

Q. Do you give a commission for getting subscribers to *Parents' Magazine?*

A. No. The National Congress does not sponsor the sale, promotion, or distribution of this magazine because it has no connection whatever with it. The *National Parent-Teacher* is our official Magazine.

Q. Do you have a list of parent-teacher publications?

A. Yes. A copy of it was sent recently to every local president. Please ask your president to let you see it.

Q. Is it true that our National officers get salaries?

A. It is not true. None of the National officers is paid. All serve as volunteers. It is this volunteer service from National leaders straight on down to the workers on the local level that is the strength and backbone of parent-teacher work. Parent-teacher leaders have no axes to grind. Their only interest is their interest in the welfare of children.

Q. I was told we could not take subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher* at a P.T.A. meeting. Is this so?

A. Someone has misinformed you. The *National Parent-Teacher* is a nonprofit, educational publication. It is your own official National Magazine. It carries no advertising. There is no reason in the world why you should not *make it a point* to take subscriptions at meetings. In doing so you are promoting a *parent education project.* Not only that; you are helping to preserve and improve family life in America.

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The subscription price of the *National Congress Bulletin* is twenty cents a year. Anyone interested in parent-teacher work may subscribe. Order from the National office.